

NOTE

The Insect Collection at the Instituto de Zoología  
Agrícola (I.Z.A.), Facultad de Agronomía,  
Central University of Venezuela, Maracay

Sometime ago I had the opportunity to visit the "Instituto de Zoología Agrícola" (I.Z.A.), Faculty of Agronomy, Central University of Venezuela at Maracay, state of Aragua. Maracay lies in a plain about 100 km west of Caracas and is separated from the Caribbean, 65 km to the north, by the "Cordillera de La Costa" or northern mountain range. The Institute of Agricultural Zoology is the major center of taxonomic research on insects in Venezuela. The insect collection consists of over one-half million prepared specimens, well arranged and properly housed in two large, air-conditioned rooms. Collection facilities include a preparation room for five technicians, and a separate room for alcoholic and other collections.

The Collection is particularly strong in insects from all parts of Venezuela but also has a good representation from other Neotropical countries (Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, Brazil, Bolivia, and Mexico). It is particularly strong in Lepidoptera, especially butterflies, Sphingidae, Saturniidae, Noctuidae, Arctiidae, and Ctenuchidae. Another fine collection is Coleoptera, especially Chrysomeloidea, Cerambycidae, Scarabaeidae, Curculionidae, Buprestidae, etc. Other well-represented orders are Odonata, Mantodea, Orthoptera, Dermaptera, Hemiptera, and Homoptera, although a good collection is equally kept of Diptera, Hymenoptera, and other orders. Type material is maintained, and especially well represented in Chrysomelidae.

The Institute is interested in having material studied by specialists, who may retain duplicates. Types and uniques are normally requested to be returned unless an agreement on a different location is reached.

Faculty conducting research in insect and mite systematics include:

Dr. Francisco Fernández-Yépez—Lepidoptera (Sphingidae, butterflies).

Dr. Carlos J. Rosales—Coleoptera (part).

Dr. Luis J. Joly—Coleoptera (Cerambycidae, Cantharidae, others in part).

Mrs. Bohumila de Bechyné—Coleoptera (Chrysomelidae).

Ing. Agr. José Clavijo—Coleoptera (Scarabaeidae).

Dr. Eduardo Osuna A.—Hemiptera (Coreidae, Pentatomoidea, Reduviidae).

Ing. Agr. Francisco Cerdá—Orthoptera (Acrididae), Mantodea.

Dr. Ernesto Doreste S.—Acarina.

Dr. Orlando Aponte L.—Acarina.

Mr. Carlos Bordón (Coleoptera, Curculionidae) and Mr. José M. Ayala (Diptera, Asilidae), residents of Maracay, are very competent amateurs associated with the Institute. The Faculty staff also includes Engineer Jorge Terán (biological control), Dr. Santiago Clavijo and Engineer Armando Notz (integrated pest control), Dr. Aquiles Montagne (ecology), Dr. Rafael Cásaes (behavior), Dr. Julia Meredith, Dr. Federico Dao, and Lic. Gerardo Yépez T. (nematologists), and several other scientists working in related disciplines.

Lloyd Knutson, *IIBIII, Agric. Res., Sci. and Educ. Admin., USDA, BARC-W, Beltsville, Maryland 20705.*

PROC. ENTOMOL. SOC. WASH.  
82(3), 1980, p. 513

#### NOTE

#### Proper Placement of Some Palaearctic "*Syrphus*" Species (Diptera: Syrphidae)

The limits of the genus *Syrphus* Fabricius have been quite variable: The genus once included all Syrphidae and now includes less than 25 valid species. While recent authors (Fluke, Vockeroth, Dusek and Laska, and Hippa, among others) have agreed on the limits of *Syrphus*, *sensu stricto*, many species have been left in the genus as *incertae sedis* as their original descriptions are inadequate for recognition and/or their types are lost. During the preparation of a Catalog of the Syrphidae of the Palaearctic Region, I have been able to place some of these species correctly. "*Syrphus*" *abyssa* Walker (1849, List Dipt. Ins. Brit. Mus. 3: 584) is a *Xanthandrus* species (N. COMB.). "*Syrphus*" *orientalis* Hervé-Bazin (1914, Ann. Soc. Entomol. Fr. 83: 400) is a bare-eyed *Epistrophe* species (N. COMB.) with *Betasyrphus*-type of abdominal pattern. As *E. orientalis* Hervé-Bazin is a primary junior homonym, preoccupied by *Melanostoma orientalis* (Wiedemann) (1824, Analecta Entomol.: 36) and *Syrphus orientalis* Loew (= *vitripennis* Meigen?) (1858, Wien. Entomol. Monatschr. 2: 108), I rename the species *betasyrphoides* Thompson (N. NAME). "*Syrphus*" *etensis* van der Goot (1964, Zool. Meded., Leiden 39: 428) is a species of *Dasyrphus* (N. COMB.). I am very grateful to Dr. P. J. van Doesburg, Jr., for examining the holotype of *etensis* for me.

F. Christian Thompson, *Systematic Entomology Laboratory, IIBIII, Agric. Res., Sci. and Educ. Admin., USDA, % U.S. National Museum of Natural History, NHB-168, Washington, D.C. 20560.*